

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 27 as follows:

B¹ Sub C¹ 27. (Amended) An isocyanate composition which is at least partially masked, comprising at least one carboxylic acid function or salts thereof and being at least partially masked with at least one masking agent, said one masking agent not bearing a carboxylic acid function or salts thereof and said one carboxylic acid function being grafted onto the isocyanate composition by reaction of a precursor of said composition via an agent bearing the carboxylic acid function and a function which reacts with a free isocyanate function, wherein the ratio in equivalents between the carboxylic acid functions or their salts thereof, on the one hand, and the isocyanate functions which are masked, free and which have reacted with the agent bearing carboxylic acid functions, on the other hand, is at least equal to 5%, and is not more than 2/3.

Please cancel claim 28.

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

B² Sub C¹ 29. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 28, wherein said agent bearing a carboxylic acid function and a function which reacts with a free isocyanate function is a masking agent bearing a carboxylic acid function.

[Please amend claim 30 as follows:]

30. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said composition is a composition masked with at least two masking agents, at least one of which contains a carboxylic acid function.

Please cancel claim 31.

Please amend claim 32 as follows:

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32. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein the ratio is at least equal to 20%.

Please cancel claims 33 to 36.

Please amend claim 37 as follows:

Sub
P2

37. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic acid function represents, in equivalents, at least 10% of the masking agent.

[Please amend claim 38 as follows:]

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38. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 37, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic acid function represents, in equivalents, at least 20% of the masking agent.

[Please amend claim 39 as follows:]

Sub
P3

39. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic acid function contains, per masking agent, not more than 4 freely rotating methyl or methylene groups.

[Please amend claim 40 as follows:]

40. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 39, wherein said masking agent containing a carboxylic acid function contains, per masking agent, not more than 2 freely rotating methyl or methylene groups.

Please cancel claims 41 and 42.

Please amend claim 43 as follows:

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43. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein said carboxylic acid function is directly onto an aromatic ring of the isocyanate composition.

Please cancel claim 44.

✓ Please amend claim 45 as follows:

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45. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 27, wherein the masking agent not bearing a carboxylic acid function or salts thereof is selected from the group consisting of oximes, lactams, pyrazoles, and triazoles.

Please amend claim 47 as follows:

47. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 46, wherein said masked aliphatic isocyanate function is connected via an sp^3 -carbon, optionally bearing one or two hydrogen atoms.

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[Please amend claim 48 as follows:]

48. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 47, wherein said aliphatic isocyanate function is neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

[Please amend claim 49 as follows:]

49. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 48, wherein said isocyanate composition is obtained from an at least partial masking of a mixture obtained by oligomerization or oligocondensation of monomers, at least one of which contains at least one aliphatic isocyanate function which is neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

Please amend claim 50 as follows:

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50. (Amended) A composition according to Claim 48, wherein said isocyanate composition is obtained from an at least partial masking of a mixture obtained by oligomerization or oligocondensation of monomers, at least one of which contains at least two aliphatic isocyanate functions which are neither secondary nor tertiary nor neopentyl.

Please cancel claim 51.

Please amend claim 52 as follows:

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52. (Amended) ~~A~~ composition according to Claim 27, wherein the masking agent not bearing a carboxylic acid function is a triazole.

Marked-up amended claims according to 37 C.F.R. 1.121 are submitted in the attached document. Added matter is shown by underline and deleted matter is shown by brackets.

Applicants reserve their rights on the filing of any continuation/divisional application based on any of the canceled claims.

It is asserted that these amendments do not add new matter and are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.